# A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF TAMIL AND JAPANESE

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International Institute of Tamil Studies

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# FORE WORD

**DR.S.RAMAR ILANGO**
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Theoretical Linguistics involves general principles for the study of human language and according to the focus of interest of the Linguists it has been called Descriptive Linguistics, Contrastive Linguistics, Comparative Linguistics, etc. The primary purpose of the Comparative Linguistics is to identify the common characteristics of the languages taken for the analysis.

I am extremely happy to say that the author Prof.Pon.Kothandaraman is an erudite scholar in both Tamil Literature and Linguistics. He was a faculty member of the International Institute of Tamil Studies and now he is the Professor and Head, Department of Tamil Literature, University of Madras. The present work, 'A Comparative Study of Tamil and Japanese' focuses the linguistic similarities found in Tamil and Japanese at Lexical and Grammatical levels. It is an outcome of his two lectures delivered at the International Institute of Tamil Studies under the auspices of the Devaneya Pavanar Endowment.

I am sure, this study will enable the scholars of both Tamil and Japanese Languages to explore the other possibilities to strengthen the linguistic affinities between Tamil and Japanese in addition to what the present author had done.

Madras
2-12-94.

**Dr.S.Ramar Ilango**
*Director*

# PREFACE

The two lectures that I delivered on 21st & 22nd July 1993 at the International Institute of Tamil Studies, Madras under the auspices of Devaneya Paavaanar Endowment have now appeared in a book form. I hope, this will provide the scholars with a good opportunity to know about the linguistic affinities between Tamil and Japanese.

Dr.Annie M.Thomas who was the then Director-in-charge of the Institute had been kind enough to invite me to give these lectures under the above endowment. Dr.N.Deiva Sundaram and Dr.A.Gopal offered their kind co-operation in the preparation of the lectures. Professor Susumu Ohno's valuable suggestions during our discussions in Tokyo in 1993 enabled me to enrich the lectures in several ways.

Dr.S.S.Ramar Ilango, Director, International Institute of Tamil Studies had been keen in bringing out this volume and expedited the work.

I would like to offer my warm and sincere thanks to all those who have helped me one way or the other in the accomplishment of this significant work.

Madras **Pon. Kothandaraman.**

21.11.1994

# A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF TAMIL AND JAPANESE

Contents

# 1. INTRODUCTION

# INTRODUCTION

Tamil is one of the Dravidian languages mainly spoken in the southern part of India known as Tamilnadu - 'Tamil Land'. Apart from Tamilnadu, Tamil speaking communities are found in the other parts of India such as Pondicherry, Andaman and Nicobar, Bangalore, Mysore, Thiruvananthapuram, Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Chandigarh. They are found in other countries also such as Sri Lanka, Singapore, Malaysia, Mauritius, South Africa, Fiji, Trinided, Guyana, Maldives, Great Britain, France, U.S.A., and Arab Countries.

Tamil programmes are broadcast, in the radio services such as Radio Singapore, Radio Ceylon, BBC, Moscow radio, Peking radio and those in Arab countries. Tamil periodicals are published in several foreign countries such as Sri Lanka, Singapore, Malaysia, England, U.S.A. and Canada.

There are about 26 languages in the Dravidian family found all over India, and in a part of Pakistan also. The Dravidian family is divided into four sub-groups namely South Dravidian, Central Dravidian - South, Central Dravidian - North and North Dravidian. Tamil, obviously belongs to the South Dravidian sub-group. Among Dravidologists there is no difference of opinion that the Tamil language is the true representative of the Proto-Dravidian. To put it in other words, about 80% characteristic features of the Proto-Dravidian have been retained only in the Tamil language.

The earliest literary record found in Tamil is a grammatical work known as Tolkappiam. The grammar is written on the basis of the literary and grammatical works that were available in the period of Tolkappiar. It is widely accepted among scholars that the grammatical work Tolkappiam must have been written around the 5th century B.C.

During the last century, Dr. Caldwell established the fact that the languages such as Tamil, Malayalam, Telugu and Kannada belong to a family of languages which is different from Indo-Aryan family. It is he who gave the name Dravidian family to the above group of languages. During the past several decades, enormous works have been done by scholars at home and abroad in the field of Dravidian Studies.

During the past fifty years or so, many scholars have proposed certain new hypotheses claiming that Dravidian languages are genetically related to

1. Sumerian
2. Basque
3. Korean
4. Hungarian
5. Wolof
6. Elamite

and

7. Japanese

It must be noted here that Dr. Caldwell has suggested genetic relationship between Dravidian and Japanese.

THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE

Japanese is an agglutinative language spoken in Japan. It is a language using the pictogrphic writing as the Chinese language. Although there are similarities between the writing systems of Japanese and Chinese, there is no family relationship among these languages. That is to say, Chinese and Japanese

are not genetically related languages. The Japanese language was considered to be an unclassified language. It might also be mentioned here that there were some attempts to connect the Japanese language with Korean and Ural-altaic Languages.

Written records are said to be available in the Japanese language since sixth or seventh century A.D. An ancient collection of poems known as "Manyoshu" in Japanese very closely resembles the "Sangam Anthology" in Tamil.

Dr. Susumu Ohno who has started the comparative study of Tamil and Japanese languages around 1978 is continuously working on Tamil - Japanese studies and steadily progressing. Other Japanese Scholars such as Dr. F. Seto, Dr. Susumu Shiba and Dr. Akira Fujiwara have also worked on the comparative study of Japanese and Dravidian.

COMPARATIVE STUDY OF TAMIL AND JAPANESE

Dr. Ohno chose the Tamil language as the best representative of the Dravidian family to compare with the Japanese language. Instead of comparing the Japanese forms with the reconstructed Proto-Dravidian forms he preferred to compare the old Japanese forms with the actual old Tamil forms. Of course one can compare all the relevant forms available in the present Dravidian language family with the old Japanese forms. A comparative study of Tamil and Japanese forms can eventually be extended to the other Dravidian languages. Since Tamil is considered to be the best representative of the Dravidian family, the comparative study of Tamil and Japanese is nothing against the study of Dravidian and Japanese. In a sense, it is a convenient approach to establish the genetic relationship between Dravidian and Japanese.

The old Tamil forms and the old Japanese forms which are formally and semantically similar have been chosen for the study. The phonetic correspondences have been systematically established. Dr. Ohno has established the genetic relationship between Tamil and Japanese at the phonological, and grammatical levels. The main source for the present study is sound correspondences between Tamil and Japanese by Professor Susumu Ohno.

Professor Ohno spent one year (1981-82) in Madras and studied Sangam Tamil, Dravidian Linguistics and Tamil grammar with Dr. Kothandaraman in the University of Madras.

In the year 1981 Prof. Ohno presented a research paper on the relationship between Tamil and Japanese in the International Conference for Tamil Studies at Madurai, India. In the year 1982, Dr. Pon. Kothandaraman presented a paper on the Linguistic Affinities between Dravidian and Japanese in the International Congress of Linguists at Tokyo, Japan.

Prof. A. Sanmugadas and Mrs. Manonmani Sanmugadas of Jaffna University have been helping Prof. Ohno for the past several years. They have also authored a few articles and books in Tamil-Japanese studies. Prof.V.N. Balambal of Delhi University has published a collection of articles on certain aspects of contrastive study of Tamil and Japanese. I am glad to note that the Tamil - Japanese study is steadily making a good progress.

I have the good fortune to have been associated with Prof. Susumu Ohno in the Tamil-Japanese study since 1978. The following two lectures may give a complete view of the comparative study of Tamil and Japanese.

# 2. LEXICAL COMPARISON

# 2. LEXICAL COMPARISON

## 2.0. Introduction

In this Chapter the phonemes, their distribution, the syllabic structure, etc. relating to Tamil and Japanese languages are discussed.

## 2.1. Phonemes

As in any other natural language, there are two main classes of phonemes, 1. Vowels and 2. Consonants in Tamil and Japanese. There is one special kind of phoneme called āytam in Tamil which will be explained later.

### 2.1.1. Vowels

#### 2.1.1.1. Vowels in Tamil

The following are the vowel phonemes in Tamil.

a ā    i ī    u ū    e ē    ai    o ō    au

The nature of ai and au is different from the other phonemes. They will be taken for discussion later while dealing with phonemic problems.

The phonemes except ai and au, may be diagramatically represented as follows:

i    u

ī    ū

e    o

ē    ō

a

ā

2.1.1.2. Vowels in Japanese :

The following are the vowel phonemes in Japanese:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| (a) | a, | i, | u, | ö |
| (b) | e, | ë, | ï, | o |

Although all the above vowels are found in Japanese, Dr. S. Hashimoto and Prof. S. Ohno are of the opinion that the vowels in group (a) must be treated as original vowels.[1]

The vowels belonging to group (a) may be diagrammatically represented as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| i | | u |
| | ö | |
| | a | |

2.1.1.3. Comparative Analysis:

In both the languages the basic vowel system seems to be something like the following

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| i | | u |
| | a | |

In the later days Pre-Tamil might have developed e and o while Japanese developed ö in the earlier times and the vowels of

group (b) - e, ë, ï and o, at a later time. The distinction between long and short vowels in Tamil is another area for further study in future.

### 2.1.2. Consonants:

#### 2.1.2.1. Consonants in Tamil:

The following are the consonant phonemes in Tamil :

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Stops : | k | c | ṭ | t | p | ṟ |
| Nasals : | ṅ | ñ | ṇ | n | m | ṉ |
| Others : | y | r | l | v | ḻ | ḷ |

The above phonemes may be diagrammatically represented as follows:

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Stops: | p | t | ṟ | ṭ | c | k |
| Nasals: | m | n | ṉ | ṇ | ñ | ṅ |
| Trills: | | | r | | | |
| Laterals: | | | l | ḷ | | |
| Continuants : | | v | | ḻ | y | |

#### 2.1.2.2. Consonants in Japanese:

The following are the consonant phonemes in Japanese language:

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| k | g | s | z | t | d | p | b |
| n | | | | | | | |
| y | | w | | | | | |

They may be diagrammatically represented as follows:

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Stops: | p | b | t | d | k | g |
| Nasals: | | m | | ṅ | | |
| Fricatives: | | | s | z | | |
| Trill: | | | | r | | |
| Continuants: | | w | | | y | |

2.1.2.3. Comparative analysis:

Between Tamil and Japanese k,c,t and p are common in the stop series. The affricate ch is found in Japanese at the allophonic level and it is closely similar to Ta.c. The Japanese language seems to have developed the voiced varieties g, d and b. It has also developed the fricatives f, s and z. Structurally speaking the bilabial w is closely similar to the labiodental v inTamil. On the other hand, the Japanese seems to have lost the following that are found in Tamil:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Stops: | | ṭ, | | ṟ |
| Nasals: | ṅ, | ñ, | ṇ, | ṉ |
| Laterals: | | l, | ḷ, | ḻ |

It may be noted here that the phonemes found to be common to both languages are k, c, t, n, p,m, v, y and r and all of them (except r) are word initial phonemes in Tamil.

A cursory look into the phonemes suggests that the phonemic merger, phonemic split and phonemic change in these languages have to be studied in detail and it is done to some extent at the end of this chapter.

2.1.3. Certain Phonological Processes:

There are certain processes such as fricativisation, gemination and lengthening (or intensification?) which draw our attention here.

2.1.3.1. Aytam in Tamil :

After a careful study of what is called āytam in Tamil, we understand that the fricativisation process has been identified in Tamil phonology and it was marked by a grapheme known as āytam. The function of āytam is to represent the homorganic fricative of the following plosive in a word. The following examples will make the point clear.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| kaஃcu | [k^scu] | kaccu |
| eஃku | [ehku] | ekku |
| kaஃpu | [k^fpu] | kappu |
| paஃtu | [p^øtu] | pattu |

Note that ஃ was realised as s before c, h before k, f before p and o before t.

2.1.3.2. Lengthening of Vowel:

In Tamil, the vowels a,i,u,e and o are said to be short vowels and ā, ī, ū, ē, ō, ai and au are said to be long vowels. A careful examination of these vowels shows that simply by lengthening a one cannot get ā. Similarly, by shortening ī one cannot get i. The fact that ai and au do not have corresponding short vowels extends a further support to what we have explained above.[2] Instead of calling it lengthening it would be more proper to call it intensification. To put it in other words, the short vowels and their corresponding long vowels are qualitatively different from each other.

2.1.3.3. Gemination:

By gemination we mean here the doubling of a consonant, (e.g., pattu, kappal). This kind of gemination in Tamil cannot be considered length. That is, tt cannot be considered long t. In Tamil

pattu contains two syllables namely pat and tu. The consonants tt are two identical consonants in Tamil where the first t is a coda of the first syllable pat and the second t is an onset of the following syllable tu. Gemination or doubling of consonant is phonologically significant in Tamil and it is more so in Japanese.

## 2.2. Distribution of Phonemes:

### 2.2.1. Vowels:

The distribution of vowels inTamil and Japanese is described here.

#### 2.2.1.1. Vowels in Tamil:

The vowels are given here in the traditional alphabetical order.

| *Vowel* | *Initial* | *Medial* | *Final* |
|---|---|---|---|
| a | aṉpu<br>'love' | aṟam<br>virtue" | maṟa<br>forget' |
| ā | āku<br>'to become' | ucāvu<br>'to enquire' | palā<br>'jack tree' |
| i | iru<br>'to be | nilam<br>'earth | kaṉi<br>'fruit' |
| ī | īmam<br>'cremation' | kīri<br>'mongoose' | nī<br>'you' |
| u | uḷ<br>'inside' | aruḷ<br>'grace' | teru<br>'street' |
| ū | ūr<br>'home town' | tūymai<br>'purity' | pū<br>'flower' |
| e | eḷ<br>'sesame' | ceru<br>'battle' | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| ē | ēṟu<br>'bull' | kēḷ<br>'to hear' | cē<br>'a kind of tree' |
| o | oli<br>'sound' | koṭi<br>'flag' | no<br>'to suffer' |
| ō | ōvam<br>'painting' | kōṭai<br>'west-wind' | pō<br>'to go' |

2.2.1.1.1. Vowel Clusters

There are reasons to believe that there were Vowel clusters in Tamil. The vowel clusters need an elaborate treatment which is not possible here at present.[3]

2.2.1.2. Vowels in Japanese :

| *Vowel* | *Initial* | *Medial* | *Final* |
|---|---|---|---|
| a | amari<br>'porridge' | amaru<br>'to be boisterous' | kara<br>'stone' |
| i | ima<br>'now' | miru<br>'to look' | fisi<br>'to grasp firmly' |
| u | ura<br>'inside of something' | kura<br>'sparrow' | usu<br>'mortar' |
| o | öfu<br>'to become big' | kömë<br>'husked rice' | mörö (moro)<br>'all' |

2.2.2. Consonants:

The distribution of consonants in Tamil and Japanese is treated below.

2.2.2.1. Consonants in Tamil:

The consonants are treated here according to the traditional grammatical way.

| Consonant | initial | Medial | Final |
|---|---|---|---|
| k | kaṭal<br>'sea' | makan<br>'son' | --- |
| c | cevi<br>'ear' | vacai<br>'blame' | --- |
| ṭ | --- | kāṭu<br>'forest' | --- |
| t | tāy<br>'mother' | nutal<br>'forehead' | --- |
| p | paḻam<br>'fruit' | tapu<br>'to kill' | --- |
| ṟ | --- | aṟam<br>'virtue' | --- |
| ṅ | --- | tiṅkaḷ<br>'moon' | --- |
| ñ | ñāyiṟu<br>'sun' | maññai<br>'peacock' | uriñ<br>'to suck' |
| ṇ | --- | kuṇakku<br>'east' | kaṇ<br>'eye' |
| n | naṭu<br>'middle' | porunar<br>'actors' | porun<br>'act' |
| m | malar<br>'flower' | tamiḻ<br>'Tamil' | īm<br>'funeral' |
| ṉ | --- | tiṉai<br>'millet' | mīṉ<br>'fish' |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| y | yāy<br>'my mother' | kayal<br>'fish' | vāy<br>'sharp' |
| r | --- | paruvam<br>'season' | kār<br>'cloud' |
| l | --- | kālam<br>'Time' | kāl<br>'leg' |
| v | vēntan<br>'king' | kuvai<br>'heap' | tev<br>'enemy' |
| l | --- | tōḻamai<br>'friendship' | yāḻ<br>'a musical instrument' |
| l | --- | viḷaiyuḷ<br>'harvest' | kaḷ<br>'toddy' |

The distribution in the medial position is given below with further necessary details:

Stops

| | *Intervocal position* | *Gemination* | *Postnasal position* | *Postplosive position* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| k | pakal<br>'daytime' | makkaḷ<br>'human beings' | naṅkai<br>'woman' | vēṭkai<br>'desire' |
| c | icai<br>'music' | accam<br>'fear' | nañcu<br>'poision' | māṭci<br>'greatness' |
| ṭ | kuṭakku<br>'west' | eṭṭu<br>'eight' | vaṇṭu<br>'bee' | --- |
| t | utavi<br>'help' | pattu<br>'ten' | vintai<br>'wonder' | --- |
| p | tapu<br>'to kill' | uppu<br>'salt' | nampu<br>'wish' | naṭpu<br>'friendship' |
| ṟ | aṟivu<br>'knowledge' | paṟṟu<br>'desire' | oṉṟu<br>'one' | --- |

Nasals

| | *Intervocal* | *Gemination* | *Postnasal* | *Preplosive* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ṅ | --- | aṅṅanam<br>'that manner' | --- | aṅku<br>'there' |
| ñ | añar<br>'mental | maññai<br>'peacock' | --- | añcu<br>'to fear' |
| ṇ | piṇi<br>'disease' | kaṇṇi<br>'garland' | --- | yāṇṭu<br>'year' |
| n | porunai<br>'name of a river' | munnīr<br>'ocean' | --- | tantai<br>'father' |
| m | amar<br>'war' | ammi<br>'mortar' | naṉmai<br>'goodness' | ampu<br>'arrow' |
| ṉ | iṉimai<br>'sweetness' | aṉṉai<br>'mother' | --- | teṉṟal<br>'south wind' |

| | *Intervocal* | *gemination* | *Pre NP* | *Pre PP* | --*P/N/ Cont.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| y | payaṉ<br>'usefulness' | toyyil<br>'a kind of decoration on the body' | moympu<br>'strength' | vāyppu<br>'chance' | ceyka<br>tūymai, cāyvu |
| r | karumai<br>'blackness' | --- | nērntatu<br>'happened' | ayirppu<br>'doubt' | cērka<br>nērmai cārvu |
| l | ñālam<br>'world' | tollai<br>'old' | --- | --- | celka<br>celvam |
| v | tavam<br>'penance' | cevvi<br>'opportunity' | --- | --- | --- |
| ḻ | kiḻamai<br>'right' | --- | vāḻntāṉ<br>'lived-he' | vāḻttu<br>'blessings' | vāḻka<br>ēḻmai, vāḻvu |
| ḷ | kiḷavi<br>'utterance' | eḷḷal<br>'mockery' | --- | --- | āḷka, kaḷvaṉ |

2.2.2.2. Consonants in Japanese:

| Consonant | Initial | Medial | Final |
|---|---|---|---|
| k | kaburu 'bite' | akaru | --- |
| g | --- | nigu | --- |
| t | tabi | tatu | --- |
| d | --- | fadi | --- |
| p | paru > faru > haru | tafuru | --- |
| b | --- | kabi | |
| m | maturu | simu | |
| n | nigu | kune | |
| p | fisi (< pisi) | tafuru (< tapuru) | |
| s | siba | usu | |
| z | --- | uzu | |
| r | --- | kara | |
| w | wagu | awi | |
| y | yara | kayu | |

The distribution of consonants in the medial position is presented below with further details.

| | *Intervocal position* | *Gemination* | *Postnasal position* | *Postplosive position* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| k | iku 'to go' | | | |
| g | wagu | | | |
| s | kasira | | | |

| | *Intervocal* | *Gemination* | *Postnasal* | *Preplosive* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| z | uzu | | | |
| t | kuturu | | | |
| d | kado | | | |
| p | tafuru (< tapuru) | zappa | | |
| b | kubo | | tambo | |
| m | umu | amma | | tambo |
| n | fanasu | | | |
| r | uragu | | | |
| w | wada | | | |
| y | köyu | | | |

*(Please find chart in next page)*

Clusters in Japanese

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| kk | cc | tt | pp |
| mm | nn | | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| e.g. | sukkari | 'as a whole' |
| | (accari) > | |
| | assari | 'slightly' |
| | kattai | |
| | sappari | 'thin taste' |
| | ammari | 'too heavy' |
| | anna | 'like that' |

2.3. Syllabic Structure:

A clear understanding of the syllabic structure is essential to solve certain phonological problems in any language. The syllabic structure of Tamil and that of Japanese are described below.

## Two consonant clusters in Tamil

| | k | ṅ | c | ñ | ṭ | ṇ | t | n | p | m | y | r | l | v | ḻ | ḷ | ṟ | ṉ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| k | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ṅ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| c | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ñ | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ṭ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | |
| ṇ | ✓ | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| t | | | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| n | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | |
| p | | | | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | |
| m | | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | | | |
| y | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | | |
| r | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | | | |
| l | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| v | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| ḻ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| ḷ | ✓ | | | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| ṟ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| ṉ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ |

## Three consonant clusters in Tamil

| | NP | PP | NN |
|---|---|---|---|
| y | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| r | ✓ | ✓ | - |
| l | ✓ | ✓ | - |

2.3.1. Tamil syllables:

A syllable consists of an onset, a peak and a coda of which the peak is the nuclear part. The onset may be formed by one or two consonants, the peak is formed by a vowel and the coda is formed by one or two consonants. The Tamil language shows the following syllabic structure.

$$\text{Syllable} \longrightarrow (C) \quad \breve{\bar{V}} \quad (C) \quad (C)$$

The above formula gives the following sequences:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| $c\ \breve{v}$ | e.g., | pukku | 'to enter, |
| $c\ \breve{v}\ c$ | | kal | 'stone' |
| $c \cdot \breve{v}\ c\ c$ | | marunm | 'will get perplexed' |
| $c\ \bar{v}$ | | pū | 'flower' |
| $c\ \bar{v}\ c$ | | pāl | 'milk' |
| $c\ \bar{v}\ c\ c$ | | pōnm | 'it look as like ...' |
| $\breve{v}$ | | a-tu | 'that' |
| $\bar{v}\ c$ | | il | 'house' |
| $\bar{v}\ c\ c$ | | ey t- tu | having grown thinner |
| $\bar{v}$ | | ā | 'cow' |
| $\bar{v}\ c$ | | āḷ | 'person' |
| $\bar{v}\ c\ c$ | | ?āṇm | 'will rule' |

2.3.2. Japanese Syllables:

The syllabic structure of Japanese is summarised by the following formula:

$$\text{Syllable} \longrightarrow \left\{ \begin{matrix} (C) & V \\ C & \end{matrix} \right\}$$

Kanda

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ka | ñ | da | a | ṯ | ṯa | Sa | p̄ | pa | ri |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

2.4. Comparative Study:

A brief account of the comparative study of Tamil and Japanese at the phonological level is presented here.

2.4.1. Vowels:

2.4.1.1. Phonemic Correspondences:

The Tamil and Japanese languages show the following sound correspondences in respect of vowels.

| Tamil | | Japanese | |
|---|---|---|---|
| a, | ā | a, | o |
| i, | ī, | i | |
| u, | ū | u and o | |
| e, | ē | i | |
| o, | ō | a, | (o) |

The following are a few examples for the above correspondences :

a -- a

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ta. | akal | 'to spread' | 131 |
| Ja. | akaru | 'to spread' | items |

ā --- a

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ta. | yāṟu | 'river' | 36 |
| Ja. | yara | 'river' | items |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a | --- | ö | in some cases | | |
| | | Ta. | kaṭavu | 'he buffalo' | 4 |
| | | Ja. | kötöfi | 'he buffalo' | items |
| i | --- | i | | | |
| | | Ta. | ira | 'to borrow' | 30 |
| | | Ja. | irafu | 'to borrow' | items |
| ī | --- | i | | | |
| | | Ta. | ninku | 'to leave' | 4 |
| | | Ja. | nigu | 'to leave' | items |
| u | --- | u | | | |
| | | Ta. | uku | to shed, to fall off, | 47 |
| | | Ja. | uku | 'to shed' | items |
| ū | --- | u | | | |
| | | Ta. | utu | 'in between, interior' | 10 |
| | | Ja. | utu | 'in between' | items |
| u | --- | ö | | | |
| | | Ta. | upu | 'to become big' | 31 |
| | | Ja. | öfu | 'to become big' | items |
| ū | --- | ö/(o) | | | |
| | | Ta. | kūmpu | 'to close' 'to contract' | 9 |
| | | Ja. | kömu | 'to close' " | items |
| e | --- | i | | | |
| | | Ta. | ceppu | 'to say' | 19 |
| | | Ja. | ifu | 'to say' | items |
| ē | --- | i | | | |
| | | Ta. | ēku | 'to go' | 17 |
| | | Ja. | iku | 'to go' | items |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| o --- a | | | | | |
| | Ta. | oppu | 'to agree' | 5 | |
| | Ja. | afu | 'to agree' | items | |
| ō --- a | | | | | |
| | Ta. | nōy | 'be ill' | 3 | |
| | Ja. | naya | 'weaken' | items | |
| o -- ö | | | | | |
| | Ta. | oṟṟu | 'to press' | 7 | |
| | Ja. | ösu | 'to press' | items | |
| ō -- ö | | | | | |
| | Ta. | pōtu | 'time' | 4 | |
| | Ja. | föto (>foto) | " | items | |

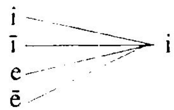
2.4.1.2. Comparative Analysis:

Ta. a , ā and Ja. a and ö :

There is no length variation in Japanese. Tamil vowels both a and ā correspond to Japanese a in most of the cases. In a few instances Ta. a corresponds to Japanese ö. At present the condition is not clear.

Ta. i, ī, e, ē and Ja. i :

The Tamil vowels i, ī, e and ē correspond to Japanese i.




At the early stage the Japanese language did not have e and therefore the e and ē were represented by i. After the development of e there was no change in the i.

The Tamil u, ū and the Japanese reflexes :

The Tamil vowels u and ū in the most of the cases correspond to Japanese u and in a few Japanese has another correspondence namely, ö. Here also we are not able to give any statement of conditioning for u - u and u - ö.

The Tamil o and ō and their Japanese reflexes :

Since there was no o in the early Japanese, the o was represented by a in certain cases and by ö in certain other cases. As in the previous cases, here too, the condition is unclear.

The centralised vowel o of Japanese poses a serious problem among vowels. It functions as a reflex to Ta. a, u and o as well. We are not able to specifically say where ō is traceable to a, where it is treaceable to u and where it is traceable to o.

Generally the Tamil o and ō correspond to Japanese a. As already mentioned, there was no o in the early Japanese and therefore the Tamil o was represented by a. In Japanese o and a have merged. In a few cases Tamil o corresponds to Japanese ö. As discussed above the condition is not clear for o - a and o - ö.

2.4.2. Consonants:

2.4.2.1. Phonemic correspondences:

With regard to consonants the Tamil and Japanese languages show the following correspondences.

| Tamil | Japanese | Examples | No. of items in the data |
|---|---|---|---|
| k- | k- | Ta/kacaṭu<br>Ja. kasu | 62 items |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| -k- | -k- | Ta. ñekiḻ<br>Ja. niki | 21 items |
| -kk- | -k- | Ta. cakkai<br>Ja. saka | 2 items |
| -ṅk | -g- | Ta. uṟaṅku<br>Ja. uragu | 8 items |
| c- | s | Ta. cāmpu<br>Ja.sabu | 34 items |
| | ø | Ta. cuḻal<br>Ja.uzu | 3 items |
| -c- | -s- | Ta.muci<br>Ja. musiru | 5 items |
| -cc- | -s- | Ta. maccu<br>Ja. masa | 3 items |
| | -z- | Ta.accu<br>Ja. aze. | 2 items |
| | (dial)-ch- | Ta. accaṉ<br>Ja.acha | only one, dialectal |
| ñ- | n | Ta. ñekiḻ<br>Ja. niki | 2 items |
| -ṭ- | t | Ta.taṭi<br>Ja.tatu | 21 items |
| | s | Ta. aṭi<br>Ja.asi | 14 items |
| | d | Ta. kaṭi 'to bite'<br>Ja. kadiru | 4 items |
| -ṭṭ- | -t- | Ta.peṭṭi<br>Ja.fitu | 8 items |
| | -d- | Ta.paṭṭam<br>Ja. fada | 5 items |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | -r- | Ta.eṭṭu<br>Ja.iru | 2 items |
| | -s- | Ta.kuṭṭu<br>Ja.koso | 7 items |
| | -z- | Ta.caṭṭukum<br>Ja.sazi | only one |
| -ṇ- | -n- | Ta. aṇai<br>Ja.ana | 8 items |
| -ṇṭ- | -d- | Ta.piṇṭi, 'powder,<br>Ja. fidi, flour' | 6 items |
| t- | t- | Ta.taḻai<br>Ja. taru | 29 items |
| | s- | Ta. teruḷ<br>Ja. siru | 5 items |
| -t- | t | Ta.matil<br>Ja. mati | 8 items |
| | s | Ta. putai<br>Ja.fasagu | only two |
| | d | Ta.atir<br>Ja. adiru | only three |
| -tt- | -t- | Ta.tattu<br>Ja. tatu | 8 items |
| | -d- | Ta.āttā<br>Ja.ada | only one |
| n- | n- | Ta.nambu, 'desire'<br>Ja.namu | 19 items |
| -nt- | -d- | Ta. tantai<br>Ja. tada | only two |
| -ṉ- | -ṉ- | Ta. aṉṉai<br>Ja. ane | only one |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| -n | -n | Ta. kūṉ<br>Ja. kuneru | only one |
| p- | f- | Ta. para<br>Ja. fara | 52 items |
| -pp- | -f- | Ta. oppu<br>Ja. afu | 6 items |
| | -b- | Ta. tuppal<br>Ja. tuba | 2 items |
| | -pp- | Ta. cappal<br>Ja. sappa/zappa | only one<br>(dialectal) |
| m - | m - | Ta.matu<br>Ja.maturu | 39 items |
| -m- | -m- | Ta.tumi<br>Ja. tumu | 12 items |
| | -b- | Ta.kumari<br>Ja.köba | only two |
| -mm- | -m- | Ta. kammal<br>Ja.kama | only two |
| -mp- | -b- | Ta. kāmpu<br>Ja kabi. | 10 items |
| | -m- | Ta. impar<br>Ja. ima | 6 items |
| y- | y- | Ta. yāṟu<br>Ja. yara | only one |
| -y- | -y- | Ta. mayakku<br>Ja.maya | 7 items |
| -yy- | -y- | Ta. ayyā<br>Ja. aya | only two |
| -r- | -r- | Ta. paru<br>Ja. faru | 30 items |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | -s- | Ta.ural<br>Ja.usu | four items |
| -ṟ- | -r- | Ta.kaṟaṅku<br>Ja.karagu | 20 items |
| | -t- | Ta.maṟu/maṟṟai<br>Ja. mata | only one |
| -ṟṟ- | -r- | Ta. eṟṟu<br>Ja. iru | 4 items |
| | -s- | Ta. murru<br>Ja. musu | only two |
| -ḻ- | -r- | Ta. taḻai<br>Ja. taru | 18 items |
| | -s- | Ta.maḻu<br>Ja. masakari | only two |
| | -z- | Ta.ceḻi<br>Ja.:sizi | only two |
| | -y- | Ta. koḻu<br>Ja. koyu | only two |
| -l- | r | Ta.kal<br>Ja. kara | 19 items<br>homophonous |
| -ll- | r | Ta. salli<br>Ja. sari > jari | only one |
| ḷ | r | Ta.māḷ<br>Ja.marubu | 15 items |
| | y | Ta. kaḷi 'gruel'<br>(ragi)<br>Ja. kayu 'gruel' | 3 items |
| ḷḷ | r | Ta. ceḷḷu 'flea'<br>Ja. sirami'flea' | only two |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| v- | f- | Ta. vaṭi 'stick'<br>Ja. fasi | 15 items |
| | w- | Ta vāṅku 'to bend'<br>Ja. wagu 'to bend' | 14 items |
| v | f | Ta. kavuḷ 'cheek' face'<br>Ja. kafo 'cheek face' | 8 items |
| | -w- | Ta. avuri 'indigo- plant'<br>Ja. awo " | only two |
| | -b- | Ta. vāval 'bat'<br>Ja. faburi 'bat' | 9 items |
| -vv- | -b- | Ta. kavvu<br>Ja. kaburu | only two |
| -vv- | -f- | Ta. vavvu<br>Ja. fafu | only one |

2.4.2.2. Comparative Analysis:

Tamil k and its Japanese reflexes:

Tamil k regularly corresponds to Japanese k except in gemination and postnasal position. In gemination instead of double k Japanese shows single k. In the postnasal position the Japanese shows -g-.[4]

Tamil c and its Japanese reflexes:

Initially and intervocally c is pronounced as s in Tamil. The same is true in Japanese also. Loss of initial c is one of the characteristic features of the South Dravidian. The Japanese language also has experienced the loss of initial c-. It is quite interesting to note that the Japanese language has retained the

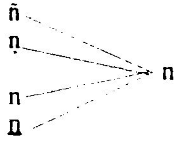
original initial c in certain cases where Tamil has lost them. As in the case of kk, the Japanese has shown single c (which is s) corresponding to cc in Tamil.

The medial -cc- of Tamil corresponds with s,z, and ch in Japanese. There are only a few items belonging to this category. With the limited data, no conditioning is possible at present.

It must be carefully noted here that no instances are available to infer the change regarding Tamil -ñc-.

The Tamil Nasals and their Japanese Reflexes:

There are six nasals in Tamil whereas there is only two in Japanese. The Tamil nasals are ṅ, ñ, ṇ, n, m and ṉ and the Japanese nasals are n and m. Except ṅk > g, we know nothing about ṅ in Japanese. Tamil ñ corresponds to n in Japanese. Although there are only two examples in Japanese, they appear to be definite cognates. The retroflex ṇ of Tamil corresponds to ṉ of Japanese. The dental n and alveolar ṉ of Tamil correspond to n in Japanese. The following diagram explains what we have briefly stated here.




The Tamil nasals ñ, ṇ, n and n have merged into n in Japanese.

The other stop phonemes in Tamil and Japanese:

Tamil -ṭ- corresponds to t, s and d in Japanese. The same way the Tamil -t- also corresponds to t, s and d. The retroflex ṭ must have become t first and then t developed the reflexes t, s and d.

(1) ṭ ------- t

ṭ \
  > t   Merger of ṭ and t
t /

(2)

-t- → -t-
-t- → -s-
-t- → -d- (rare)

At present we are not able to give any phonological conditioning for the split of t into t, s and d in Japanese.

The initial t of Tamil corresponds to t and s in Japanese. We are not able to say where t became s and where it was retained.

With regard to p, the Japanese language does not show initial p. The initial p of Tamil has changed into f in Japanese. Medial p is rather rare in Tamil for it changes into v (for example aḷapu > aḷavu). In Japanese -p- corresponds to f, e.g. tafuru and tafusu in Japanese while it is tapu in Tamil.

The medial -pp- has three reflexes in Japanese namely, f, b, and pp. There is only one dialectal form where we have pp reflex.

With regard to m, the reflex in Japanese is m in most of the cases. In two instances we find b in Japanese corresponding to Tamil m. Geminated m in Tamil corresponds to single m in Japanese.

The postnasal p becomes b in Japanese. In some cases mp corresponds to m in Japanese. We are unable to give any phonological conditioning for these changes.

Tamil y, whether single or double corresponds to y in Japanese. The Tamil r has r and s as its correspondences in Japanese.

Intial ya in Japanese

| *Japanese* | *Tamil* | *DED* | |
|---|---|---|---|
| ya | ē | 805 | |
| ya | ē | 870 | |
| ya | eṭṭu | 938 | |
| ya | ē | | clitic |
| ya | āram/ār | | spoke |
| yara | yāṟu,āṟu | | 'river' |
| yari | ār | 371 | 'sharpness' |
| yasu | ācu | 341 | get lean |
| yamu | amar | 161 | stop |
| yana | aṇai | 122 | weir |
| yaka | akam | 7 | house |
| yaku | akai | | burn |
| yasasi | acai | | be tender |
| yorofi (ya-yö) | ār | 369 | armour |
| yasu - mu | acai | | take rest |

(information presented by Prof. Ohno on 17.6.93)

In all the above instances, we have to assume an initial y in the protoforms.[5] The protoform *yă > ĕ in certain cases and the *yă > ā in certain other cases. Further study is necessary to make any concrete statement.

The intervocal ṟ of Tamil corresponds to r and t in Japanese, while the intervocal ṟṟ corresponds to r and s.

The Tamil ḻ corresponds to r, s, z and y in Japanese. Among the available data, there are 18 instances where we find ḻ --- r correspondence.

The laterals l and ḷ, whether single or double in Tamil except three items, correspond to r in Japanese. That is, l, ll, ḷ and ḷḷ have merged into r. There are only three items in the data where we find Tamil ḷ corresponding to Japanese y. In these cases, we can

reasonably assume that the ḷ in those items might have been pronounced as ḻ which has y correspondence in Japanese.

The initial v - of Tamil corresponds to f - and w- in Japanese. There are fifteen items showing v---f correspondence while there are fourteen showing v---w correspondence. No conditioning seems to be possible at present.

In the medial position Tamil -v- corresponds to Japansese f, w and b. There are eight items showing v---f correspondence, nine items showing v---b correspondence and there are only two showing v---w correspondence.

The medial -vv- of Tamil corresponds to Japanese b in two instances and Japanese f in only one instance.

2.5. Conclusion

After carefully examining the available data, the following statements are made with some confidence.

1. The NP sequences of Tamil has changed into * NB and finally B in Japanese.

e.g., nīṅku > nigu

The clusters of $C_1$ $C_2$ can be only NP sequence.

2. The clusters of $C_1$ $C_1$ type got simplified and became $C_1$ in Japanese. There are a number of instances in the data to exemplify this. e.g., cakkai > saka

3. The nasals got simplified by ñ, ṇ, n and ṉ merging into n in Japanese.

4. Tamil l,ḷ,ḻ and r merged into r in Japanese.

5. The Phonology of Japanese has moved towards simplification and uniformity.

# 3. GRAMMATICAL COMPARISON

## 3. GRAMMATICAL COMPARISON

3.0. The Grammatical comparis on between Tamil and Japanese can be made under the following divisions :

1. Conjugation
2. Declension
3. Sentential modification
4. Certain other important aspects.

### 3.1. Conjugation :

The verb conjugation of any two languages cannot be identical. Certain conjugation suffixes in Tamil and Japanese are formally and functionally similar. They seem to have developed from a common source.

### 3.1.1. Tense :

In old Tamil we find two tenses which may be called past and non-past. The past tense was marked by i, in̲, t and nt and the nonpast tense was marked by p, v and um.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| e.g., | eḻutu - i | 'having written' |
| | eḻutu - in - ān̲ | 'wrote - he' |
| | cey - t - ān̲ | 'did - he' |
| | nata - nt - ān | 'walked - he' |
| | kāṇ - p - ān̲ | 'will see - he' |
| | cey - v - ān̲ | 'will do - he' |

In Japanese the past tense had been marked by i and the nonpast by mu.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| e.g., | furu | 'to rain' |
| | furi - k-i | 'it rained' |
| | faramu | 'it will rain' |

The i in furiki corresponds to Tamil i and the mu is the inverted form of - um in Tamil.

These markers seem to have developed from one and the same source.

3.1.2. Conjunctive Participle :

In Tamil the conjunctive participle marker is tu and i.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| e.g., | cey - tu | 'having done' |
| | pāṭu - i | 'having sung' |

In Japanese the conjunctive participial function was done by te and i.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| e.g., | sure | 'to do' |
| | shi-te | 'having done' |
| | tuk | 'to touch' |
| | tuk - a - i tuke | 'having touched' |

It may be easily noticed here that the Japanese te corresponds to Tamil tu and the Japanese i in tuk - a - i corresponds to Tamil i, (e.g. ceytu 'having done', eluti 'having written').

3.1.3. The conditional in :

In the early Tamil, in was the conditional marker among other forms of conditional participle. The suffix in was more frequently used for this purpose than any other conditional markers.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| e.g., | cel - in | 'if .... goes' |
| | var - in | 'if ....comes' |

In old Japanese ni is found to have been used as conditional marker.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| e.g., | furu - ni | 'if .... rains' |
| | | 'since ... rained' |

The Suffix <u>ni</u> is the reverse form of <u>in</u>. [6] The casual and conditional notions have some common aspects and it is reflected here in language.

3.1.4. Nonhonorific Imperative :

In Tamil the nonhonorific imperative markers are -āy, -ē and ø.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| e.g., | ceyyāy | 'do' |
| | ceyyātē | 'don't do' |
| | cey | 'do' |

The form <u>ē</u> in <u>ceyyātē</u> is connected with āy in ceyyāy.

In Japanese e is found to function as a command marker.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| e.g., | ik - i - a > yuke | 'go' |

"The marker e and the a (in ik - i - a) seem to have close connection with the Tamil forms āy and e".[7]

3.2. Declension :

The postpositions also should be treated along with the case suffixes. For our convenience sake, only the case suffixes are discussed here.

3.2.1. Objective case :

In Tamil the suffix <u>ai</u> marks the objective case. In certain contexts the objective case is unmarked.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| e.g., | pāl - ai | 'milk (obj)' |
| | paṭam - ø ( in paṭam pārttāṉ) | 'picture (obj)' |

The Tamil ai has developed from an early - am. The final -m gives rise to v or y.[8]

In Japanese the objective case marker is wo.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| e.g., | tookyoo - wo | 'Tokyo (obj)' |
| | kanji - wo | 'kanji letter (obj)' |
| | kanojo - wo | 'she (obj)' |

The original am changed into aw which gave rise to wo in Japanese.[9]

am > aw > ow > wo.

3.2.2. Sociative case :

The sociative case marker in Tamil is oṭu or ōṭu.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| e.g., | tantaiyoṭu | 'with father' |
| | tantaiyōṭu | 'with father' |

In Japanese, the sociative case is marked by -to.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| e.g., | anata - to | 'with you' |
| | kannan - to | 'with kannan' |

In Japanese there is no difference between long and short vowels and the retroflex ṭ has merged with t. The development of to from oṭu may be clear now. As we found Tamil um corresponding to Japanese mu, Tamil oṭu corresponds to Japanese to (oṭu/oṭu oṭ ot to).

3.2.3. Genetive Case :

Among other markers, the genetive case is marked by in also in Tamil.[10]

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| e.g., | ūrin peyar | 'name of the hometown' |
| | talaivaṉiṉ kaṭṭalai | 'the order of the leader' |
| | mīniṉ - kaṇ | 'eye of the fish' |

The genetive case is marked by no in Japanese. In Tamil we find another marker -atu signifying genetive case.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| e.g., | yāṉaiyatu kāl | 'leg of the elephant' |
| | malaiyatu ucci | 'the peak of the mountain' |

In Japanese there is another marker tu which corresponds to Tamil atu.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| e.g., | anata - no hon | 'your book' |
| | boku - no hon | 'my book' |
| | yama tu mi | 'deity of the mountain' |
| | kuni tu kami | 'god of the country' |

Tamil iṉ and atu seem to be closely connected with Japanese no and tu respectively.

### 3.3. Sentential Modification :

In any natural languages, there are certain suffixes pertaining to verb and there are certain other suffixes pertaining to noun. There is another group of linguistic forms whose main function is to modify the sentence meaning. Such items belong to neither noun, nor verb. They may be called sentential elements. Among the sentential elements we deal with the clitics in the following sections.

### 3.3.1. The emphatic clitic tāṉ in Tamil and so in Japanese :

The emphatic clitic tāṉ occurs in a sentence only once with some syntactic restrictions. Consider the following examples :

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 a | Ta. | kaṇṇaṉ iṅku vantāṉ |
| 1 b | Ja. | kannan kokoni kitari<br>'kannan' 'here' 'came'<br>'kannan came here' |
| 2 a | Ta. | kaṇṇaṉtāṉ iṅku vantāṉ |
| 2 b | Ja. | kannanso kokoni kitaru,<br>'kannan came here' |

3 a Ta. kaṇṇan inkutāṉ vantāṉ
3 b Ja. kannan kokoniso kitaru
'Kannan came here'

When we closely examine the above sentences we are able to make the following observations:[11]

(a) tāṉ and so have the same syntactic functions in Tamil and Japanese respectively.

(b) In Japanese the finite verb kitari changes into kitaru when so is added to any item in the sentence.

Consider further the following sentences :

4.a. kaṇṇaṉtāṉ iṅku vantatu

4.b. kannanso kokoni kitaru
'It is kannan who came here'

5.a. inku vantatu kannantan

5.b. kokoni kitaru kannanso
'It is kannan who came here'

6.a. kannan vantatu inkutan

6.b. kannan kitaru kokoniso
'It is here that kannan came'

As the nominalised kitaru we have vantatu in 4.a. From 4.a. we get 5.a. and 6.a. by shifting the emphasised item to the right end of the sentence. The same is done in the case of Japanese sentences also. Tamil tāṉ corresponds to Japanese so.

t corresponds to s

ā, a correspond to o

final c becomes ø.

3.3.2. The clitic - kol in Tamil and ka in Japanese:

The clitics kol and ka are a kind of interrogative markers.[12] Their syntactic functions are identical to those of tāṉ and so. The following examples will further clarify this :

7.a. kaṇṇaṉkol iṅku vantāṉ/vantatu ?

7.b. kannanka kokoni kitaru ?
'Is that kannan who came here ?'

8.a. kaṇṇaṉ iṅkukol vantāṉ ?

8.b. kannan kokonika kitaru ?
'Is that here that kannan came ?'

9.a. iṅku vantatu kaṇṇaṉkol ?

9.b. kokoni kitaru kaṇṇaṉka ?
'Is that kannan who came here ?'

10.a. kaṇṇaṉ vantatu iṅkukol ?

10.b. kannan kitaru kokonika ?
'Is that here that kannan came ?'

Look at 7.a. kaṇṇaṉkol iṅku vantāṉ is quite normal whereas kaṇṇaṉkol iṅku vantatu looks rather unusual. Logically and grammatically both are correct. In Tamil, the nominalisation is optional while it is obligatory in Japanese. The emphasised item was shifted to the right end of the sentence with regard to the emphatic clitic (pl. see 3.3.1.). Similarly, the item with kol or ka is shifted here to the right end of the sentence (please see 9.a., 9.b., 10.a. and 10.b.).

Tamil kol and Japanese ka correspond to each other, (kol - ko - ka).

3.3.3. The Tamil ē and the Japanese ya :

The clitics ē and ya are another kind of interrogative markers. The interrogative ē of old Tamil roughly corresponds to tāṉē of

modern Tamil. Syntactically ē and ya also function like the other clitics treated above. The following illustrations might exemplify this:

11.a. kaṇṇanē iṅku vantāṉ ?

11.b. kannanya kokoni kitaru ?
'Isn't that kannan who came here ?

12.a. kaṇṇaṉ iṅkē vantāṉ ?

12.b. kannan kokoniya kitaru ?
'Isn't that here that kannan came ?'

13.a. iṅku vantatu kaṇṇanē ?

13.b. kokoni kitaru kannaṇya ?
'Isn't that kannan who came here ?'

14.a. kaṇṇaṉ vantatu iṅkē ?

14.b. kannan kitaru kokoniya ?
'Isn't that here that kannan came ?'

As in the previous cases Tamil ē and Japanese ya correspond to each other. Both clitics appear to have come from the same source.

3.3.4. Tamil um and Japanese mo:

Apart from the conjunction um, there is one clitic um in Tamil which is semantically closer to the English 'also'.

The Tamil um obviously corresponds to Japanese mo. The syntactic functions of um and mo are the same as we have seen previously for the other clitics except one remarkable difference. Shifting the item with the clitic to the right end is not premissible here.

15.a. kaṇṇaṉum iṅku vantāṉ

15.b. kannanmo kokoni kitaru
'kannan also came here'

16.a. kaṇṇan iṅkum vantān

16.b. kannan kokonimo kitaru
'kannan came here also'

The Tamil clitics tān, kol, ē and um correspond to the Japanese clitics so, ka, ya and mo respectively. These resemblance at a higher level prove beyond doubt that Tamil and Japanese are genealogically related languages.

3.4. Certain other important aspects :

3.4.1. The demonstrative and interrogative systems are surprisingly similar in Ta. and Ja. [13]

DEMONSTRATIVE
(mod.J.)

| | *Here* | *There* | *afar* | *question* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pronouns - re | kore | sore | are | dore ? |
| Adj. -no | kono | sono | ano | dono ? |
| Phrasal Adj. -nna | konna | sonna | anna | donna ? |
| manner | kō | sō | ā | dō ? |
| Location -ko | koko | soko | aboko | doko ? |
| motion Direction -chira | kochira | sochira | achira | dochira ? |

TAMIL

| | *Here* | *There* | *afar* | *question* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pronouns | ivan<br>ivaḷ | avan<br>avaḷ | uvan<br>uvaḷ | evan ?<br>evaḷ ? |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | ivar | avar | uvar | evar ? |
| | itu | atu | utu | etu ? |
| | ivai | avai | uvai | evai ? |
| Adj. | inta | anta | unta | enta ? |
| | ī/i | ā/a | ū/u | e ? |
| Adv. Place | iṅku | aṅku | uṅku | eṅku ? |
| | ivaṇ | avaṇ | uvaṇ | evaṇ ? |
| Adv. manner | ippaṭi | appaṭi | uppaṭi | eppaṭi ? |

## INTERROG. + KA, MO, DEMO

| | Interrog. | Indefinite | Neg. | Distributive |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pronouns Persons | dare<br>donata<br>who? | dareka<br>donataka<br>someone | aremo..<br>donatamo..<br>no one... | daredemo<br>donatademo<br>any one<br>every one |
| Things and Persons | dore<br>which? | doreka<br>something | doremo<br>nothing | doredemo<br>either one |
| Manner | dō<br>how ? | dōka<br>somehow | dōmo<br>in no way | do demo<br>any how |
| Place | doko<br>where ? | dokoka<br>some where | dokomo<br>no where | dokodemo<br>any where<br>every where |
| Things | nani ?/nan?<br>what ? | nanika<br>something | nanimo<br>nothing | nanidemo<br>any thing<br>every thing |
| Direction/ Preference | dochira<br>where ?<br>which ? | dochiraka<br>somewhere<br>one of which | dochirama<br>nowhere<br>neither of which | dochirademo<br>any where<br>either of which |

**TAMIL**

| | *Interrog.,* | | *Indefinite, ...* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Person | yār ? | yārō ? | yārum | yārāvatu |
| Thing | eṉṉa ? | eṉṉavō/ētō? | eṉṉavum/ ētum | eṉṉavāvatu/ ētāvatu |
| Manner | eppaṭi ? | eppaṭiyō ? | eppaṭiyum | àppaṭiyāvatu |
| Place | eṅku? | eṅkō ? | eṅkum | eṅkavātu |

A careful examination of the above tables clearly shows how closely both the systems are related to each other.

3.4.2. Taṉviṉai - Piṟaviṉai:

The taṉviṉai - piṟaviṉai concept is peculiar to Tamil. In all other Dravidian languages, except Malayalam, the piṟaviṉai and causatives have merged and lost distinction. The following formula will explain the verb stem classification in Tamil.[14]

$$V_{st} \rightarrow \begin{Bmatrix} V_{st1} + (PV) \\ \\ V_{st2} \end{Bmatrix} + \text{(caus)}$$

This situation is clearly retained in Japanese.

$$V_{st} \rightarrow \begin{Bmatrix} V_{st1} \text{ --- ar, as} \\ \\ V_{st2} \end{Bmatrix} + \text{(caus)}$$

3.4.3. Speaker - Doer - Hearer Relation in Ta. Ja. Syntax:

There is some kind of relationship between the speaker and the doer (or the subj.) of the sentence uttered by the speaker. The pronouns to refer to the doer will be chosen according to the speaker - doer relation.

There is another important relationship. This is between the speaker and the hearer. According to this relationship, the hearer markers will be chosen.

If the doer (or subj.) is in the 2nd person, the hearer and the doer will be the same. Here also according to the relationship, it is theoretically possible to have markers for both relationship.

The speaker - hearer relation and the speaker - doer relation play an important role in the syntax of Tamil and Japanese.[15]

3.4.4. Onomatopoetic words:

The structure and meaning of the onomatopoetic words are surprisingly similar in Tamil and Japanese.[16] They also have to be given due place in the comparative study of languages.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| e.g., | Ta. cora cora | Jap. sara sara |
| | (valu valu | suru suru) |
| | kaṭa kaṭa | gata gata |

3.4.5. Nativization of loan words:

Foreign words have been used in literary Tamil according to the need only after they are nativized.[17] Tamil has always resisted the use of foreign words. In general they were accepted after they were nativised. The foreign words had been nativised according to the phonological and grammatical structures of Tamil. This process in

Tamil is known as Tamilization of foreign word.[18] Such practice is considered to be a must even now in Japanese language.

e.g.,

Nativization in Tamil

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| stāṉam | > | tāṉam |
| slēṣa | > | cilēṭai |
| kriyā | > | kiriyai |
| karmā | > | karumam |

Nativization in Japanese

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| lak | > | laku | 'pleasure' |
| gat | > | gatu | 'month' |
| milk | > | miruku | 'milk' |
| plus | > | purasu | 'plus' |
| class | > | kurasu | 'class' |

# 4. CONCLUSION

## 4. CONCLUSION

As a result of the phonological and grammatical comparisons, it might be clearly understood now that the Tamil and Japanese Languages are genetically related. In the prosody of these languages also we find close relationships between them. It is now understood that in the archaeological findings in Tamilnadu and Japan, there are several aspects which are strikingly similar to each other. Experts in archaeology are examining them and the results are found to support the conclusions emerged in linguistic study.

In fact, now we need more reference works and a good team of researchers to work in these areas. In the near future we must have bilingual dictionaries of Tamil-Japanese and Japanese-Tamil. Similarly we need a Contrastive Grammar of Tamil and Japanese. For further advancement of the comparative study of these languages we are in need of a scientifically compiled etymological dictionary of old Tamil and old Japanese.

A cultural history of Tamil and a similar work of Japanese will be of great help to solve certain problems in the Comparative study of this sort. At this juncture it may be worth mentioning that the traditional Japanese people celebrate a festival which is very much similar to the festival of Pongal in Tamilnadu. Certain customs and manners, traditional sports and games and certain aspects of folktales are also found to be similar in Tamilnadu and Japan. A comparative study of the proverbs in Tamil and Japanese is another interesting area for further study.

What is done so far in the comparative study of Tamil and Japanese is only a beginning. In fact, it is well begun. There is a vast scope for further research, not only in the Comparative Linguistics but also in archaeology and culture pertaining to Tamil and Japanese and eventually in Dravidian and Japanese.

Now the Comparative study of Tamil and Japanese is fairly known in the scholarly world. Dr. M.B. Emeneau, Dr. Komil Zvelebil, Dr. Vacek and others are quite aware of this study and they have given their blessings to the elderly scholar professor Susumu Ohno. Neither Professor Susumu Ohno nor I, who have been associated with him from the very beginning of this study, claim that this is the only way for the study. We are of the firm opinion that these languages are genetically related. The resemblances occur between Tamil and Japanese languages must have a common origin. They cannot be considered borrowings: They cannot be treated as chance resemblances either. We have rightly identified a new area for the comparative study. Most of the research works in the Tamil Japanese Studies have been successfully done and published by Dr. Susumu Ohno in the Japanese Language. A sketch of the comparative study of Tamil and Japanese at the phonological and grammatical levels has appeared in English only now.

# FOOTNOTES

1. Please see Professor Susumu Ohno's,The Making of Japanese, p.142.
2. Please see Dr. Pon. Kothandaraman's "A Note on ai and au in Tamil" in Studies in Tamil Linguistics.
3. For a brief discussion, please see, A History of Tamil Language (p.65) by Prof. T.P. Meenakshisundaran.
4. For a detailed discussion please see "A Study on the Relationship between Tamil and Japanese Intervocalic stops in the Two Languages" by Dr. Susumu Ohmo in IJDL Vol. XII, No.2.
5. In Tamil the initial ya - changes into ye (e), e.g., yān + case suff > * yan + case suffix > en + case suffix.
6. Tamil um corresponds to Japanese mu. Similarly Tamil in corresponds to Japanese ni.
7. In Tamil āy in the initial syllable when followed by a word pause has a tendency to become a (e.g., pāy 'mat' > pā, kāy 'vegetable' > Kā)But the āy in the final syllable has a tendency to change into e (e.g., Vantāy 'came you' > vante).
8. In kannada the second case marker is am. In Tamil there are a number of forms ending in ai (ay) which are relatable to the forms ending in am (Ie.g.,) kālam / kālai 'time', vaṭṭam / vaṭṭai 'circle').
9. It must be noted here that the Tamil suffixes of VN (Vowel-Nasal) type correspond to Japanese suffixes of NV (Nasal - Vowel) type.

| e.g., | Ta. | Ja. |
|---|---|---|
| | um | mu |
| | in | ni |
| | am | wo ( < aw < am) |

10. Please see Dr. Pon. Kothandaraman's Ilakkaṇa ulakil putiya pārvai p.55
11. Please see Dr. Pon. Kothandaraman's "A Note on the Emphatic Clitic in Tamil and Japanese" in Pulamai Vol.20, No.1.
12. The form kol is commonly found in old Tamil. It is found to give interrogative meaning.
13. For the Japanese demonstrative and interrogative forms please see Basic Japanese Grammar (pp. 30 -32) by Everett F. Bleiler.

14. Please see The Verb in Modern Tamil by Dr. Pon. Kothandaraman.

15. Please see Dr. Pon. Kothandaraman's 'The Place of speaker Hearer Concept in Tamil Syntax' in ADR Vol. XXVIII, Part I, 1978.

16. For a detailed study of Onomatopoeia in Tamil, please see Dr. V. Gnanasundaram's Onomatopoeia in Tamil.

17. Tamil has always resisted the use of foreign words. In general they were accepted after they were nativized.

18. Nativization of foreign words has been recommended by Tamil grammarians ever since the age of Tolkappiam.

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